On this week’s investigation, I look into college culture. I wanted to focus on something that most parents, students, and future students don’t think about when picking a college. I chose CA’s (or more commonly known as RA’s). CA’s are Community Assistants who take care of a specific hall or wing. I have looked at two different dorm halls at a local university. Bloomsburg University is home of 7 halls, the two that I looked at were Columbia Hall and Ewell Hall. What most people don’t think about is what the CA’s job is. Well they are supposed to enforce school rules, answer questions, and possibly most importantly, help create friendships with the hall residents. But do CA’s really do their jobs as they are supposed to? Do they enforce all the rules that the school has put into place or does their personal opinion change that? And do they really help create friendships and open communication between them and their residents? To find out the answers to these questions, I turn to a few CA’s from Ewell and Columbia Hall and a few residents that live in their hall. There interviews may surprise you.

I came up with news segment based on a recent reading I’ve done. Entitled My Freshman Year, the author, Rebekah Nathan, is a cultural anthropologist teaching at a university decided to enroll in her university as an undeclared college freshman living in the dorms. In chapter three of the book, Nathan talks about her RA’s and the relationship between them and their residents. She mentions how the RA’s would try to get group activities. A poll was taken and 75% of the residents said that they would like to do a movie night and the time that worked best was on Tuesday nights at 8 o’clock (46). Nathan noticed that even though 228 students said that they were interested in movie nights, on the first movie night only 2 students showed up, the second movie night, no one. After the RA changing it to Sunday night, still no one showed (46). That made me wonder if that is a common occurrence at college. Just then Nathan started mentioning about the rules the RA’s had made for the hall. The RA’s and the residents made their own rules such as leaving your door open if you’re not doing anything, clean up after yourself, and do not be overly loud at night along with others. Nathan noted how not many people followed these rules. By the reading, it did not seem that the RA’s did any sort of punishment to try to keep the rules enforced. But what about Bloomsburg? Do their CA’s enforce the rules or do they let them slide like Nathan’s college did?

To answer these questions I have asked CA’s to come into our studio for interviews and I have gone to residents that live in those CA’s halls to talk about their take of what they think of their CA’s.

I went straight to the CAs first. I’m letting you know now that all CA’s are anonymous for the protection of their jobs and their voices have been changed. Here are the interviews…

1. {1 & 4.} The other CA’s had answers similar to these. CA 2 wanted to help others and CA 3 just tried out for a CA because his friends were doing it plus for the benefit of being paid
2. 4. When I asked some of their residents whether or not they feel that they have good communication with their CA this is what I got {T&MkD}. {3} and in response {Ash}. All other CA’s said that they too have good communication and their residents agreed
3. Wondering what the plus side is of being a CA and one answered that differently than the rest {1}. Having an answer like the others, {2}
4. Does this job affect their school work? Putting in a few hours of classes, and working the desk shit can really take up the day. {1234}. Having each different answers mean to me that every CA can handle the work load depending on what works best for them
5. Now that we have seen the benefit of being a CA, what about the bad side? {3 &4} Watching the doors and the females come in and out wearing revealing outfits must be tough along with telling friends to stop doing something that’s against the rules. This CA answered a little differently {1} she seems to understand that this is a job where you have to enforce the rules. That made me look into my next question…
6. What do the CA’s not enforce or are lenient on when it comes to rules? {1234.} Its seems to me that most CA’s don’t enforce and are lenient on the quite hours, visitation and even drinking. One CA even admitted that he drank underage so why should he stop other freshman?
7. Partying is an aspect of college. It affects students if they even go out or stay in. Hearing that two CA’s said that as long as a resident doesn’t act drunk, they won’t call the cops, made me wonder if the CA’s themselves go out. The CA that said as long as they stay in their room doesn’t even go out 4. Others like CA 1 and 3 said that if they do go out it has made them more responsible

In tonight’s segment I have brought up issues that most parents, students and future students don’t think about. I have concluded that most CA’s believe that they have good communication with their residents and all the residents I have interviewed agreed. I have gotten the liberty to learn some of the things that the CA’s have to do for their job. Community Assistances enforce all the school rules, some chose to let some slide as long as they don’t feel that the residents are harming themselves. CA’s also craft friendships in the hall by having group activities but it seems that most residents take the liberty to create friendships of their own. They also grow as a person and it is a job can help prepare for the future. Thank you for watching please join in next week when we bring up what is actually in mystery meat.